GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:616
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains released to the States under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years and the current year as on date, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of the foodgrains out of the above distributed under the PDS;

(c) the details of the remaining quantity of the foodgrains left with each State during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the manner in which it has been utilised or is proposed to be utilised, State-wise;

(e) whether any policy has been formulated for proper implementation of PDS in the country;and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a),(b)&(c): Details of the total quantity of foodgrains allocated to the States/UTs and lifted by the States/UTs for distribution under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), for the last three years and the current year, are at Annex-I, II III & IV.

(d),(e)&(f): TPDS is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State and UT Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and allocation of foodgrains upto the PD Centres in the States/UTs. The State and UT Governments are responsible for identification of families of APL and BPL (Below Poverty Line), issue of ration cards, undertake review of the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families and, distribution of the foodgrains through the network of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). As per the provisions of the PDS (Control Order) 2001, the States/UTs are required to furnish Utilisation Certificates in respect to the allocations of foodgrains made under the TPDS within a period of 60 days for the month of allocation. Further, to ensure that foodgrains reach the targeted beneficiaries, a Nine Point Action Plan is also under implementation in the States/ UTs. as under:

1. Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

2. Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.

3. Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

4. Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

5. Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shops-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

6. Carryout door step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

7. Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

8. Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

9. Making fair price shops financially viable entities-allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.